

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8051

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CAA DECISION ON LAKER LICENSE

L. CAA ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 7, 1975 THAT IT HAD DECIDED NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO REVOKE LAKER LICENSE AS PROPOSED BY BA (COPY OF CAA DECISION BEING POUCHED EB/OA STYLES).

2. CAA DECISION ALSO NOTES THAT "... WE REGARD SKYTRAIN EXPERIMENT AS ONE TO BE LAUNCHED IN PROPITIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE OPERATOR AND PUBLIC HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT EXPERIMENT WILL PROVE SUCCESSFUL AND WHEN DIVERSION FROM OTHER OPERATORS WOULD BE LIKELY AT WORST TO FALL WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS. WE ARE FORCED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SKYTRAIN SERVICE SHOULD NOT BE INAUGURATED

UNTIL THE MARKET HAS ASSUMED A HEALTHY RATE OF GROWTH." "... MARKET, AS WE SEE IT, IS NOW UNLIKELY TO EXPAND FAST ENOUGH FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS - PERHAPS LONGER." "WE CONSIDERED VARYING THE LICENSE BY SPECIFYING DATE BEFORE WHICH SERVICE SHOULD NOT START, ... BUT CONCLUDED THIS UNREALISTIC ...; CLEARLY ON ALL FORECAST IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS..."

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSION WITH HUBBACK FEBRUARY 7, HE POINTED OUT LAKER DECISION STILL IN "MID-STREAM" HERE SINCE BA HAS OPTION OF FILING AN APPEAL WITHIN 21 DAYS;

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HE AND COLEGATE THOUGHT BA MAY ELECT, HOWEVER, NOT TO

APPEAL DECISION. IN ANY EVENT, HUBBACK SAID SITUATION
WILL NOT BE CLEAR FOR ANOTHER FIVE OR SIX WEEKS AND HE
WOULD HOPE THAT US AUTHORITIES WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTION
ON LAKER DURING THAT PERIOD.

SPIERS

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